

CLAIMS

1. A method of generating invocation sequences of update functions to update elements of a form, the method comprising the steps of:
 - 5 supplying update functions to a synthesiser;
identifying trigger elements from the elements of the form in the update functions that trigger the invocation of the update function;
generating an activation network based on the update functions at the synthesiser; and
 - 10 determining the invocation sequence of update functions for each trigger element.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein the trigger elements are determined by at least one of the value or status of the elements of the form.
- 15 3. The method of claim 1, wherein the activation network includes cyclic update functions.
4. The method of claim 1, 2, or 3 further comprising the step of:
 - 20 exporting the update functions and the invocation sequence to a form renderer in a readable format.
5. The method of claim 1, 2, or 3 wherein the update functions are validation functions.
- 25 6. The method of claim 1, 2, or 3 wherein the update functions are activation functions.
7. The method of claim 4, wherein the synthesiser is stored on a server computer.
- 30 8. The method of claim 4, wherein the synthesiser is stored on a client computer.

9. The method of claim 4, wherein the synthesiser forms part of a middleware application, located between a server computer and a client computer.

5 10. The method of claim 4, wherein the synthesiser is integrated with the form renderer.

11. The method of claim 10, wherein the form renderer is a web browser application.

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12. The method of claim 1, 2 or 3 wherein the update functions are supplied by one of a database engine and a form generator.

13. The method of claim 1, 2 or 3 wherein the step of determining the invocation sequence involves determining the order in which the update functions must be executed within the activation network.

14. The method of claim 1, 2 or 3 further comprising the steps of:
entering data to change the status of a first form element;
20 determining the position of the first form element in the activation network; and
triggering the update functions associated with the first form element to update the status of a second form element.

15. A computer readable medium having program code stored thereon;
25 which, when run on a computer, causes the computer to perform the steps of:
supplying update functions to a synthesiser;
identifying trigger elements from the elements of the form in the update functions that trigger the invocation of the update function;
generating an activation network based on the update functions at the
30 synthesiser; and
determining the invocation sequence of update functions for each trigger element.

16. A script generation system for generating an invocation sequence to
35 update a form, the system comprising;

- a synthesiser for generating an activation network based on update functions supplied by a form generator and identifying trigger elements from the elements of the form in the update functions that trigger the invocation of the update function; and
- 5 a determinator for determining the invocation sequence of the direct update functions, for each trigger element.

10 17. The system of claim 16, wherein the trigger elements are determined by at least one of the value or status of the elements of the form.

18. The system of claim 16, wherein the activation network includes cyclic update functions.

15 19. The system of claim 16, 17 or 18, wherein the update functions and invocation sequence are exported to a form renderer in a readable format.

20. The system of claim 16, 17 or 18, wherein the update functions are validation functions.

20 21. The system of claim 16, 17 or 18, wherein the update functions are activation functions.

22. The system of claim 16, 17 or 18, wherein the synthesiser is stored on a server computer.

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23. The system of claim 16, 17 or 18, wherein the synthesiser is stored on a client computer.

24. The system of claim 16, 17 or 18, wherein the synthesiser forms part of a middleware application, located between a server computer and a client computer.

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25. The system of claim 16, 17 or 18, wherein the synthesiser is integrated with the form renderer.

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26. The system of claim 25, wherein the form renderer is a web browser application.

27. The system of claim 16, 17 or 18, wherein the update functions are
5 supplied by one of a database engine and a form generator.

28. The system of claim 16, 17 or 18, wherein the step of determining the invocation sequence involves determining the order in which the functions must be executed within the activation network.

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29. The system of claim 16, 17 or 18, wherein, in use, a user enters data to change the status of a first form element, the position in the activation network of the first form element is determined such that the update functions associated with the first form element are triggered so as to update the status
15 of a second form element, in accordance with the invocation sequence.